

Me DI
el
said variants retain the ability to bind biotin, and wherein said second polypeptide is an antibody or antigen-binding fragment of an antibody.

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24. (Twice amended) The genomic streptavidin fusion protein of claim 18, wherein said fusion protein forms a tetrameric complex with a second, third, and fourth fusion protein, said second, third, and fourth fusion protein comprising at least a first and second polypeptide joined end to end, wherein said first polypeptide comprises at least 129 amino acids of streptavidin, as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2, or functional variants, said variants comprising at least 90% amino acid identity with the native sequence thereof, wherein said variant retains the ability to bind biotin, and wherein said second polypeptide is an antibody or antigen-binding fragment thereof.

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25. (Amended) The fusion protein of claim 18, wherein the antibody is B9E9.

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26. (Twice Amended) The fusion protein of claim 18 wherein the antibody is a single-chain Fv fragment.

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65. (Amended) A composition, comprising the fusion protein of any one of claims 18-22 and 24-39.

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Claims 18-22, 24-39 and 65 are pending. The claims have been amended for clarification purposes and to advance one aspect of the invention. Support for the amendments can be found throughout the specification and at specific sections as noted in the following remarks. The amendments are made without prejudice to filing a continuation, continuation-in-part, or divisional thereon. No new matter has been added.